1 1 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT ORIGINAL EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK 2 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, 3 Plaintiff, Docket No.: 4 08 CR 076 (NGG) versus 5 U.S. Courthouse 225 Cadman Plaza East NICHOLAS CALVO, 6 Brooklyn, NY 11201 Defendant. 7 February 12, 2008 8 10:00 a.m. 9 Transcript of Criminal Cause for Bail Appeal 10 Before: HONORABLE NICHOLAS G. GARAUFIS, District Court Judge 11 **APPEARANCES** 12 For the Government: BENTON J. CAMPBELL, ESQ. 13 United States Attorney Eastern District of New York 14 271 Cadman Plaza East Brooklyn, New York 11201 15 BY: ROGER BURLINGAME, ESQ., Assistant U.S. Attorney 16 For the Defendant: BURKE, MIELE & GOLDEN, LLP 17 100 Washington Avenue Suffern, New York 10901 BY: PATRICK T. BURKE, ESQ. 18 19 EMILY R. DANIEL, ESQ. 69 West 9th Street, Suite 6J 20 New York, New York 10011 21 Court Reporter: MICHELE NARDONE, CSR, RPR Official Court Reporter 22 225 Cadman Plaza East Brooklyn, New York 11201 23 Phone: 718-613-2601 Fax: 718-613-2631 24 Proceedings recorded by mechanical stenography. Transcript 25 produced by computer-aided transcription. MICHELE NARDONE, CSR, RPR, Official Court Reporter

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 1
               (In open court.)
 2
               (Defendant present.)
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              THE CLERK: United States versus Calvo.
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              MS. DANIEL: Good morning, your Honor.
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              MR. BURLINGAME: Good morning, your Honor.
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              THE COURT: Good morning.
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              MR. BURLINGAME: Roger Burlingame for the United
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     States.
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              MR. BURKE: Your Honor, my name is Patrick Burke, and
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     I have been asked to represent Mr. Calvo, in substitution for
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     Ms. Daniel, who has done a wonderful job up until now.
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     Ms. Daniel has handled the bail application up until now, it
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     would really be beneficial to us all for her to be here.
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              THE COURT:
                           That's fine.
                                         That's not a problem.
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              MR. BURKE:
                          Thank you, your Honor.
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              This is Emily Daniel, your Honor, for the record.
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              THE COURT: Really? You are Ms. Daniel?
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              MS. DANIEL:
                           Yes.
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              THE COURT:
                          Why don't you state your appearance,
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     Ms. Daniel.
                  I'm surprised that's you.
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              MS. DANIEL: I haven't seen you in a while.
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              THE COURT: I haven't seen Ms. Daniel in a while.
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              MS. DANIEL: Emily Daniel for the defendant, your
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     Honor.
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              THE COURT:
                          You are Mr. Calvo?
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3 Proceedings 1 THE DEFENDANT: Yes. 2 THE COURT: Good morning. 3 THE DEFENDANT: Good morning. 4 This is an appeal by the government? THE COURT: 5 MR. BURLINGAME: Yes. 6 THE COURT: First, let me tell you that I have read 7 the transcript before Judge Bloom. So I have some sense of 8 what's at issue here. I know the defendant is charged in ten 9 substantive counts but not in the racketeering conspiracy 10 count. 11 MR. BURLINGAME: That's correct, Judge. 12 THE COURT: Okay. So we understand, and I know the 13 charges, I have read the indictment. 14 So we are ready to go? 15 MR. BURLINGAME: That's correct. 16 THE COURT: All right. 17 MR. BURLINGAME: Judge, the government's position is 18 very simple. We are not seeking detention, a permanent order 19 against the defendant. We just want a bail package that we 20 feel reflects the seriousness of the charges against the 21 defendant and the risk of flight that he poses. 22 We feel that the package that Judge Bloom appropriated 23 yesterday, especially with sort of unnamed suretors, is unreasonable. Even if there were good suretors to appear, that 24 a \$300,000 bond secured by \$30,000 in cash for a man who makes 25 MICHELE NARDONE, CSR, RPR, Official Court Reporter

4 Proceedings 1 \$100,000 a year and received personally \$110,000 in extortion 2 payments over a two-year period is, you know, if he chose to 3 flee, which he is facing a couple of substantive counts which carry 20-year maximum penalties, it's a matter of saying it's a 4 5 wash-out to the suretors to make them whole. And I don't -- I feel like he should have a greater --6 7 there could be more moral persuasion placed on him to make sure 8 that he is not going to flee. THE COURT: Okay. 9 10 MS. DANIEL: May I respond, your Honor? 11 THE COURT: Yes. 12 MS. DANIEL: First, your Honor, this is an appeal by 13 the government, and I believe that this appeal, whether it was to this court or to the Second Circuit, basically should be 14 15 addressed on an abuse of discretion standard, which is the 16 typical standard for appeal. So whether or not this Court 17 finds Magistrate Bloom's decision absolutely perfect or might 18 disagree, the question is whether or not she abused her 19 discretion. And I would say she clearly did not. 20 THE COURT: You agree she abused the standard? 21 It's not -- it's de novo. MR. BURLINGAME: I have 22 just read a dozen cases about --23 THE COURT: A dozen? 24 MR. BURLINGAME: -- all the detention hearings for the 25 Cirillo case, the Gotti case, the Salerno; are all appeals held

5 Proceedings 1 before the magistrate judge, and the district court reviews under a de novo standard, and the Second Circuit reviews under 2 3 abuse of discretion. 4 THE COURT: Who does, the Second Circuit? 5 MR. BURLINGAME: Yes. 6 MS. DANIEL: Your Honor, I think that's a technical 7 distinction whether the Second Circuit or this Court. 8 opinion, the standard should be the abuse of discretion 9 standard. 10 In any case, I will get to the merits of bail 11 detention. There is still a bond of \$300,000. These are 12 gainfully employed --13 THE COURT: This defendant does not own his own home? 14 MS. DANIEL: Excuse me, your Honor? 15 THE COURT: He doesn't own his own home? 16 MS. DANIEL: He owns his own home, but he has no 17 It's actually in his wife's name, but she is equity in it. 18 divorcing him. I have spoken to her, and it is absolutely 19 clear she is not assisting him in any way, shape, or form, in 20 addition to which the house is in her name. There is virtually 21 nothing that I can do. 22 THE COURT: He has no savings account? 23 THE DEFENDANT: No. 24 THE COURT: And he has no equity of any kind of his 25 own accord?

6 Proceedings 1 I believe that the house even has -- has MS. DANIEL: 2 next to no equity, but it's not in his name. 3 THE COURT: No. But I mean, does he have a savings 4 account? Does he own shares of stock? 5 THE DEFENDANT: No. 6 THE COURT: He is the salesman for a construction 7 company? 8 MS. DANIEL: Your Honor, I'm glad you mentioned that. 9 The name of the company is Nacirema. 10 In yesterday's paper and in my discussions, they have 11 been told by the Business Integrity Commission to cut their ties with Mr. Calvo because of this indictment. The government 12 13 was also questioning Mr. Calvo about Nacirema. They, at this 14 point, could not even help if they wanted to. It's a total 15 conflict of interest with him. 16 THE COURT: Who has? 17 MS. DANIEL: They have been told by the Business Integrity Commission -- it's a city agency -- that they are not 18 19 allowed to deal with Mr. Calvo at this point. So they 20 initially wanted to put up some cash. 21 THE COURT: I see. You mean they don't have to await 22 any kind of judicial decision as to Mr. Calvo's behavior, they just go out and do whatever they want, is that it? 23 24 MS. DANIEL: No. They have been told that they cannot 25 employ him.

7 Proceedings 1 THE COURT: Told by whom? 2 MS. DANIEL: The Business Integrity Commission, which 3 is a city --Who is that? 4 THE COURT: 5 THE DEFENDANT: Your Honor --6 THE COURT: I don't want you to say anything. No. 7 What's the Business Integrity Commission? Are they my 8 partner here? 9 MS. DANIEL: No. 10 THE COURT: Well, I don't really care about the Business Integrity Commission because I'm a federal judge, and 11 12 the Senate didn't make them the judge. I don't care about what 13 they want to do. It's only about what the Court wants to do. 14 I know I'm not arguing the point with you. It's not a 15 disagreement. It's just I can't take into account what some 16 agency of the City of New York wants to do. 17 I once worked for the City. It doesn't -- I mean, 18 there are people all over the place making decisions in 19 New York City, some of which I agree with and some of which I 20 don't. But I can't rely in any way, shape, or form on what 21 they do. 22 Are you telling me he is no longer employed by this 23 company? Is that what you are telling me? 24 MS. DANIEL: That's what I have been told by Nacirema. 25 THE COURT: That's the point. Tell me that -- I don't

8 Proceedings 1 want to know if he is no longer employed. I just want to know 2 if he is employed. 3 MS. DANIEL: They told me they have to terminate his 4 employment because of what this agency told them. 5 He was also questioned by them, and they are 6 incredibly nervous. 7 Initially, they said they would put up an amount for 8 the case and yesterday they said, because of the contacts they have had with these agencies, they will not put up anything. 9 10 THE COURT: I will tell you something about how I view parties contacting employers in connection with matters which 11 12 are properly before the Court, and I have said this before. 13 don't think that any agency of any government should be contacting any company to say whether or not that entity or any 14 15 individual -- to say whether or not that entity should or 16 should not be supporting someone who is accused of a crime. 17 That's interfering with the process in this courthouse. 18 MS. DANIEL: I agree with you, your Honor. 19 THE COURT: I'm just telling you that's my view of it. 20 MS. DANIEL: I agree with you, as well. 21 I'm putting it on the record, because if THE COURT: 22 I'm going to have 62 defendants and then have companies being 23 told by some agency of the city government you can't support this person or you can't give this person a loan because your 24

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business may be affected by it, then that's interfering with

9 Proceedings 1 the litigation. 2 So this Business Integrity Commission better keep its 3 hands off my case. 4 MS. DANIEL: I agree with you. 5 THE COURT: You better tell them. 6 MR. BURLINGAME: I will, Judge. 7 THE COURT: Or they will be in here answering to me. 8 MR. BURKE: Your Honor, we are going to order the 9 minutes, please. 10 THE COURT: Business Integrity Commission, who are 11 they? 12 MS. DANIEL: I agree with you entirely, your Honor, 13 and you know it was in yesterday's Daily News and it's made --14 THE COURT: I don't care for The Daily News, either. 15 MS. DANIEL: It's made this company very nervous, and 16 it's prohibiting them from putting anything up. 17 THE COURT: I understand your point. 18 My point is if there is going to be interference by third parties in the process of defendants obtaining security, 19 20 all right, then they are interfering with the activities of the 21 That's my view of it. I have said this. 22 I said this in the Bronson case. There is ample evidence of my views of this. If you look back at the bail 23 24 proceedings in the Larry Bronson case, U.S. v. Bronson, where 25 it appeared to the Court that there may have been some MICHELE NARDONE, CSR, RPR, Official Court Reporter

MS. DANIEL: I could not agree with you more.

THE COURT: That's not the point. The issue here is

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Proceedings

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Mr. Burlingame has an appeal from Judge Bloom's decision, and now I'm asking you what kind of security -- now that I have said what I said about that kind of interference, what kind of security are you proposing to provide on the 300,000?

You don't disagree with the \$300,000 figure, do you, or do you?

MR. BURLINGAME: I do, Judge.

What we were originally seeking and what we tried to establish was some uniformity across all the defendants in this case. And what we have been seeking for the defendants who we judge to be sort of a similar level of, you know, exposure and seriousness of the charges, was something in the neighborhood of \$700,000 for total of the bond, supported by around \$300,000 in equity.

And, you know, just to restate, the charges here are serious, and the defendant is a known associate of the Genovese family. He has ties to the underboss of the family. He is on recorded conversations saying that he has a weekly meeting with the acting underboss of the Genovese family.

This is a serious guy we are dealing with. He has the means to flee. He is facing serious charges, and I feel bad that his lawyers are telling me that his life appears to not be going well; but it seems to me that creates a further incentive for him to flee, if he is going to be losing his job and losing his marriage.

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He's got a brother who owns property in the area.

that this guy is going to live up to the terms of his bond.

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14 Proceedings 1 THE COURT: Where is his brother? 2 MS. DANIEL: His brother has a co-op in Queens with 3 almost no equity. 4 THE COURT: What does his brother do? MS. DANIEL: He's a salesman for a flower company. 5 6 This case has been designated -- will be designated, 7 I'm sure, a complex case, even for the defendants who are 8 facing one or two years. So this case is going to last for 9 several years. 10 So to say to someone that you have to put your home 11 up, you can't sell it, you can't do anything, to say that, that 12 means no one is willing to step forward for him, I think, is a 13 little disingenuous. It's a lot to ask for anyone. 14 house will be encumbered for that period of time. 15 This case is undoubtedly going to last a very long 16 Signing a bond is still a significant undertaking for 17 any surety, to be liable for several hundred thousand dollars. 18 MR. BURLINGAME: The amount of cash involved here for 19 a guy who makes \$100,000 a year and is extorting people to the 20 tune of \$50,000 a year is not that much cash. 21 I don't know the amount of moral -- if we want to talk 22 about a \$300,000 cash bond, then I would imagine the people who 23 are going to put this money up, it's a little harder to pay 24 them back if he decides he wants to leave. But these are 25 serious charges, and the government is not seeking detention.

unusual, despite --

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problem.

THE COURT: What kind of medication does he take? MS. DANIEL: He takes a medication for a psychiatric

Proceedings

1 Are they in school, or are they working?

in school, and his 22-year-old son is a construction worker.

And I might note, obviously, it's an enormous hardship for the two young children, who he is fully involved with.

MS. DANIEL: He said that his 19-year-old daughter is

THE COURT: I understand. Now, tell me the relationship he has with these proposed suretors. Explain to me what the relationship is.

The question of whether he will appear isn't somehow, some way tied to whether it's important to him to have this relationship. If it's with his -- if the relationship is with someone who is close to him, like a loving spouse, as opposed to an estranged spouse, for the sake of discussion, then that's one thing.

If the relationship is with someone with whom he has tangential ties, then the likelihood that he would be concerned about leaving that person high and dry are somewhat different.

MS. DANIEL: I agree with that, your Honor. These are longstanding friends. I don't have the name of the third person, and obviously --

THE COURT: Who is the first person?

MS. DANIEL: Her name is Valerie English. She is a United States citizen. She is a guidance counselor with the Kearny, New Jersey school district. She is the longstanding girlfriend of a longstanding friend of Mr. Calvo's.

Proceedings

another longstanding friend. Unfortunately, this defendant is getting divorced, so.

MR. BURLINGAME: So, Judge, what we have is the girlfriend of a friend, a guy who is a longstanding friend of the defendant's but is unwilling to put his house up, and someone whose name we don't know.

Again, the government is not asking for permanent detention. We are asking for a reasonable bail package, and I would also ask if the Court is inclined to approval of something based on the suretors, based on a proposed set of suretors, that pretrial service does a full work-up on all these suretors to check into their histories and if any ties to organized crime, given the defendant's background.

THE COURT: Do you have anything else you want to say?

MS. DANIEL: No, your Honor. Just to reiterate, because someone who doesn't want to put up their home because it doesn't have a lot of equity because it's going to be encumbered for three years. If we need to come up with more cash, we will come up with more. I don't think it's fair to say that they are not willing to sign up a house.

MR. BURLINGAME: That's the whole point, somebody is willing to put their life on the line.

MS. DANIEL: What if someone wants to sell the house?

THE COURT: Then they come back to the Court. It

happens all the time. We want to sell the house, we are

Proceedings

substituting some other property. It happens every day all over America, where a suretor provides the property as security and then they want to sell the house, they want to put a new mortgage on the house, they would rather put up cash than the house, they want more flexibility.

These things happen, and certainly if that were to take place in this situation, the Court would consider a substitution. That's really what it's all about.

MS. DANIEL: There is no magic to just --

THE COURT: I think the amount is too low. Let me just tell you this. This is a defendant who is charged with very serious crimes, and I can't minimize the significance of these charges. Whether or not the defendant is guilty of them, you know, that's a question for another day.

I think the \$300,000 bond, cover on the bond, is a reasonable amount, but I think that at least \$100,000 of it is going to have to be provided in some form of security, such as cash or equity on property. And because otherwise, the bond has no significance in a situation like this, where \$30,000 in cash from people who have -- it seems to me at this point, based on what you have told me -- have a thin relationship with this particular defendant, is simply inadequate to assure that the defendant will not flee.

I think the government is not unreasonable in requesting a more significant undertaking on the part of the

It's not a big risk to put up nothing and just sign

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willingness to take a risk here.

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	Proceedings 25
1	MS. DANIEL: May I stay on for today?
2	THE COURT: Stay on for today.
3	MS. DANIEL: I will assume at the end of today I am
4	relieved.
5	THE COURT: Just send me a letter requesting to be
6	relieved, and I will relieve you on the record at that time,
7	once you are done.
8	MS. DANIEL: So maybe I will send you a letter
9	tonight.
10	THE COURT: Tonight or tomorrow is fine.
11	And you put in your notice of appearance, sir?
12	MR. BURKE: I just talked about it. I will do it by
13	mail tonight or e-mail.
14	THE COURT: Please do so, so we are covered.
15	MS. DANIEL: Do I need to appear again? No, just
16	write you a letter?
17	THE COURT: Just write me a letter.
18	MS. DANIEL: And I will stay with him as long as he
19	needs to today.
20	THE COURT: All right, Mr. Burke. All right. Have a
21	nice day.
22	MR. BURKE: Thank you, Judge.
23	(End of proceeding.)
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